

# **STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS**

**for the**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**on the**

### **THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION'S (CDF) HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES PROJECT**

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*Prepared for:*

**State of California  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**

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# **STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS**

## **for the Environmental Impact Report on**

### **The Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project**

The Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project (Project) will result in six significant effects to historical resources. As detailed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the Final EIR, the Findings, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), mitigation measures shall be adopted by CDF as a condition of Project Approval that will substantially lessen the adverse impacts associated with each of the six significant effects. Two of the following significant effects will thus be mitigated to a level of less than significant:

- **SIGNIFICANT IMPACT 5:** Buildings Identified for Protection under this Plan may lose their Significance due to Neglect, Deterioration, Misuse, or Alteration
- **SIGNIFICANT IMPACT 6:** Allow the Transfer of Significant Buildings to another Entity thereby resulting in their Demolition, Removal, or Replacement

However, despite the adoption of the mitigation measures specified, four of the following effects remain significant and unavoidable:

- **SIGNIFICANT IMPACT 1:** Demolition, Removal, or Replacement of 57 Known Significant Buildings
- **SIGNIFICANT IMPACT 2:** Demolition, Removal, or Replacement of Buildings that could become Significant
- **SIGNIFICANT IMPACT 3:** Demolition, Removal, or Replacement of Buildings that become 50 years old
- **SIGNIFICANT IMPACT 4:** Demolition, Removal, or Replacement of Buildings that are not yet 50 years old, but are part of a Historic Compound

Pursuant to Section 15093 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) hereby adopts the following Statement of Overriding Considerations. The Department recognizes that significant and unavoidable impacts would result from the implementation of the Project. CDF has done each of the following: (a) adopted all feasible mitigation measures; (b) rejected the alternatives to the Project; (c) recognized all significant, unavoidable effects. Having done so, the Department finds that the benefits outweigh and override the significant unavoidable effects for the reasons stated below:

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### **The Draft Management Plan for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites Project**

- (1) The Project fulfills CDF's objective to adopt a heritage resources management plan that will guide CDF in its efforts to preserve its history and the archaeological sites on lands CDF owns or manages. The Project will enable CDF to ensure that historic preservation is integrated into the Department's long term planning and decision making process. The Project will focus CDF's preservation efforts on CDF historic buildings that best represent CDF's history, are accessible to the public, and are a cost-effective investment of the public dollar. Without the Project, the Department will continue to deal with heritage resources on a project-by-project basis.
- (2) The Project will ensure that the Department takes a comprehensive approach to heritage preservation while carrying out CDF's infrastructure improvement program that is critical to the Department's operations. CDF's operations require an infrastructure that meets its needs as the nation's largest multi-purpose fire protection agency. Many of the CDF buildings have failing water and wastewater systems, outdated communications facilities, and seismic risk due to structural instability. CDF is also concerned about exposure to possible liability for injuries to people climbing or exploring isolated and abandoned facilities such as lookouts and fire stations. Most of CDF's apparatus buildings can no longer accommodate today's larger fire-fighting equipment, engines, and modern air fleet. Some of CDF's facilities must entirely be relocated due to lease terminations and urban encroachment. Land acquisition costs are minimized by utilizing CDF's existing properties as much as possible. The CDF heritage resources and infrastructure improvement projects will both benefit from the comprehensive approach that the Project will provide.